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SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA: MINERALS AND ENERGY NEWSLETTER "THE ASSAY" - I

REF(S): A) PRETORIA 3049, B) PRETORIA 2998

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1. (U) Introduction: In January 2004, the Economic Section of Embass

Key

2. (U) Key to some of the terminology and abbreviations used is given

BEE (Black Economic Empowerment) - the scheme whereby the South Afric

- t = tons,
- t/d = tons per day,
- c/l = cents per liter,
- t/m = tons per month,
- t/y = tons per year,
- oz = troy ounces (31.1 grams),
- cmg = centimeter grams,
- mcf = million cubic feet,
- tcf = trillion cubic feet,
- R = SA currency (rand),
- MW = megawatts,
- kt = thousand tons,
- bbl/d = barrels per day,
- MW = megawatts,
- PGM = platinum group metals.

NEWS

Aquarius Platinum Lists on JSE

On December 8, after nearly two years in the offing, Aquarius Platinu

FERRO-CHROME

Environmental Resistance to Tata Steel

Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) plans to construct a \$100 million

Cheap electricity and the port had originally attracted TISCO to Rich

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Court Rules Against Government EIA Process

On January 26, the Western Cape High Court ruled that the Department

RENEWABLE ENERGY

High Hopes for New Solar Panel

South African scientists at the Rand Afrikaans University (now part o

Alberts' believes that large-scale production could bring production

GOLD

Finance Minister Backs IMF Gold Revaluation

On January 17, South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said that

COAL

South African Coal Exports Down 5%

South Africa's total coal exports decreased 5%, from 71.5 mt in 2003

DIAMONDS

Namibia Wants De Beers to Sell Local

Diamdel, a wholly-owned diamond-marketing subsidiary of De Beers, pla

De Beers Raises Rough Diamond Prices by 3%

London-based Diamond Trading Company (DTC), the marketing arm for De

New Lesotho Diamond Mine Sparkles

During the past two weeks, the newly reopened Letseng diamond mine in

OIL

South Africa to Send Oil Technicians to the Sudan

PetroSA, the South African National Oil Company, is to send technicia

FOREIGN BUSINESS

China Increases Involvement in South African Mineral Industry

China recently acquired a controlling interest in the Steelpoort chro

HEALTH and SAFETY

Fire at SASOL's NATREF Refinery

On January 23, a gas fire broke out in one of the storage tanks at th

INFRASTRUCTURE

Kumba and Transnet Sign HOA

On January 26, Transnet, the state-owned transport company, and minin